

**THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-HENNEPIN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT**

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Media Advisory

“Jury Appreciation Week” is May 1-5, 2006

For immediate release

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (May 1, 2006)— “Jury Appreciation Week” is proclaimed for May 1-5, 2006 by State, County and Judicial leaders. The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners will announce its proclamation and dedication in working with the Fourth Judicial District on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. The announcement will be made in the County Board Room in the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis.

A Look at Jury Service in Hennepin County

Juror Demographics

- Every year, approximately 30,000 residents receive a mailed jury summons from the Jury Office of the Fourth Judicial District serving Hennepin County.
- Residents are randomly selected from a master list compiled from individuals on the Voter Registration, State Driver's License and State Identification lists.
- After fulfilling jury service, you are once again eligible in two years.
- 12.6% of Hennepin County's minority population meets the criteria to be a juror in Hennepin County. The Fourth Judicial District's goal for minority representation on juries is to at the very minimum reflect the same percentage of the total eligible population. As of 2006, the Fourth Judicial District has an overall 14.3% minority representation of those reporting to service for the year.
- In 2005, minority representation was 13%.

Juror Utilization & Satisfaction

- 90% of individuals who report for jury service are selected as juror or alternative jurors.
- Less than 2% of jurors are disappointed with their jury service

Juror Services

- The jury summons questionnaire that individuals receive by mail can now be filled out online. Individuals still have the option of mailing in their summons.
- A call-in service implemented in 2004 allows jurors to check by phone if they need to report for jury duty.
- The jury office includes a small business center that includes telephone, internet and fax services. Television viewing and magazines are also provided to jurors.
- Individuals are able to postpone jury service for one-time only. Jury service may be postponed for up to six months and must be fulfilled at the time designated by the individual. Approximately 1/3 of individuals postpone their jury service.

Juror Fun Facts

- Historically, new U.S. citizens and seniors have expressed the most gratitude in being selected for jury duty.
- People have met their future spouse while serving on a jury
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About the Fourth Judicial District

The State of Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District serves only Hennepin County and is the state's largest trial court. For the nearly 750,000 cases annually received, its mission is to provide a system of Justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies

Sixty-one judges, 15 referees serve and more than 550 staff serve in these courts: Civil, Criminal / Traffic (including Domestic Violence, Drug and the Community Impact and Property Calendars), Juvenile, Probate / Mental Health, Family, Housing and Conciliation. Fourth Judicial District judges and staff strive to offer an accessible, fair, courteous, efficient and innovative system of Justice for its communities.

Fourth Judicial District facilities in downtown Minneapolis are located at the Hennepin County Government Center, Public Safety Facility, Juvenile Justice Center, Family Justice Center and City Hall. The suburban court facilities are located in Brooklyn Center (Brookdale / Division II), Minnetonka (Ridgedale / Division III) and Edina (Southdale / Division IV). For more information, please visit our website at www.courts.state.mn.us/districts/fourth

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